

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 were rejected in the Office Action mailed April 30, 2004. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. The amendment made to the claim does not alter the scope of the claims, nor has this amendment been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendment to claim 1 has been made to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

The amendment to claim 1 clarifies that there is a manager which manages a plurality of files having the same file title but different contents. The same manger also manages a plurality of files having the same content but different titles as a single file.

Claims 1-3, 7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,560,631 ("Ishihara") and claims 4-6, 8-11, and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishihara in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,109,511 ("Nitta"). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections due to the three reasons set forth below in addition to the previously presented arguments.

First, in Ishihara, files with different file identifiers are dealt with as different files. That is, when a new file is registered, even with the same file title and contents, it is recognized as a separate file, or an existing file is deleted. Therefore

Ishihara can not be utilized in a situation that files having the same content are registered separately.

In contrast, according to the present invention, file contents are compared, whereby the compared files are managed as a single file, even when these files have different file titles and file identifiers. Thus, utilizing the present invention, it is possible to permit effective utilization of disc resources.

Second, in Ishihara, a file is called by using a file identifier. For this reason, a file can be called only from a program conforming to the system. For example, when calling a class file in a Java program, it is called as a usual file name.

In contrast, according to the present invention, the file identifier and the file title are dealt with separately. Specifically, a user name, under which an application has been started by a file managing system, is dealt with as a file identifier, and a file stored using the inventive system can be utilized by an application by merely matching it with the file title called in the application.

Finally, Ishihara discloses a technique for realizing the separate management of files having the same path name and file title on different apparatuses. That is, a plurality of files having the same path name and file title on a single apparatus cannot be managed. Therefore, Ishihara, cannot be utilized for managing files on a single apparatus.

In contrast, according to the present invention, files are preserved in the file system with management IDs which are automatically generated by the system.

Thus, it is possible to manage a plurality of files having the same path name and file title on a single apparatus.

For at least the reasons stated above, the present invention is different from the cited reference.

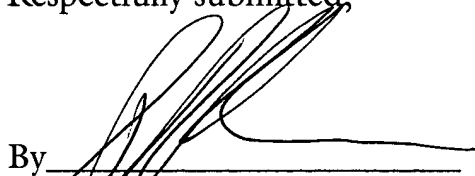
Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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